

Rain and warmer tonight;  
rain and colder tomorrow;  
fresh, variable winds.

# The Washington Times

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WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1904.

PRICE ONE CENT.

## INSPECTORS DID NOT INSTRUCT P. O. WITNESSES

Affidavits Do Not Show  
That Charges Were  
Well Founded.

## HUMDRUM DAY IN COURT

Defense Fails in Effort to  
Have Banking Evidence  
Submitted in Bulk.

Starting disclosures in connection with the charges that Postoffice Inspectors Mayer and Gregory had misled witnesses were lacking this morning in the ninth day of the trial of A. W. Machen, the Groff brothers, George E. Lorenz and Martha J. Lorenz, his wife, on the charge of conspiring to defraud the Government in the purchase of Groff letter-box fasteners.

John F. Kumer, for the defense, submitted three affidavits against the inspectors. They were by Diller F. Groff, son of one of the defendants; N. H. Baumgartner, cashier of the bank in Westminister in which Machen kept his account; and William P. Sapp, assistant superintendent of city delivery in Toledo, Ohio, the city from which Machen and the Lorenzes hail.

The affidavits were to the effect that Gregory and Mayer had been seen talking to witnesses and in one instance it was charged that Gregory had shown papers to the witnesses who had not been on the stand.

It was not testified that the inspectors had given any specific aid to the witnesses. Mr. Conrad, for the prosecution, took the ground that the inspectors had in no way violated the spirit of the laws or of the rulings of the court, and so argued.

### Inspectors Must Reply.

Justice Pritchard held that a man should not only have a fair trial, but should have no reason to think either way, and ordered the clerk to issue an order on the two inspectors to make answer to the allegations of the defense in affidavits. These are expected to be ready tomorrow.

Humdrum, dry, but essentially important proceedings, marked the session this morning. Harry Halstead, clerk in the Home Savings Bank of Toledo, and President Carr, of the National Bank of Commerce in the same city, identified on the books of their institutions receipts of money by the Lorenzes and the almost immediate forwarding of part of the sums by the Lorenzes to A. W. Machen. Item after item of these transactions was identified by the bank officers, and while the monotonous recital made the audience, and even the accused, sleepy, it was linked after link in the chain of proof of the conspiracy which the prosecution alleges to have existed.

### Taggart Outwits Defense.

Mr. Taggart started yesterday to trace the course of check after check from the Groffs, when they received payment for the fasteners, to the Lorenzes, and then a forwarding of a part of the money to Machen. The defense suddenly decided to admit without further identification, and subject only to the general exception, the entire lot of checks, drafts, deposit slips, and other banking entries.

Such a general admission would have destroyed the effect upon the jury of the incessant forging of one link to another, and the prosecution could have shown the continuity and intensity of the series of financial transactions only in the speeches before the jury at the close of the case.

Several times yesterday the defense offered to let in the evidence in a bunch, instead of insisting upon a recital of each incident. Mr. Taggart said he was much obliged, but would proceed with the case in his own way, and proceed he did, holding the attention of the jury on the transactions until recess today.

The attendance was large this morning. There was a general impression that sensational charges would be made against the inspectors, followed by strenuous denials, a fierce legal battle between counsel, and possible drastic action by the court. The affidavits of the defense were all that rewarded the spectators, and the rest of the proceedings were uninteresting.

## WITNESS' AFFIDAVITS ACCUSE INSPECTORS

At the outset of the trial today Judge Kumer offered an affidavit of Diller F. Groff, son of Diller B. Groff, that on January 18, Inspector Gregory showed a paper to William P. Sapp, one of the witnesses for the prosecution, shortly (Continued on Fourth Page.)

## WEATHER REPORT.

Rain will fall tonight and tomorrow in the South Atlantic States, and snow or rain in the lower portion of the northern portion of the Middle Atlantic States. The weather will clear tonight in the lower Mississippi Valley, and East Gulf States, an. rain will turn to snow in the Ohio Valley late tonight or on tomorrow.

It will be colder tomorrow in the Ohio Valley, Tennessee, and the East Gulf States.

TEMPERATURE.  
9 a. m. .... 33  
12 noon ..... 41  
1 p. m. .... 41

THE SUN.  
Sun sets today.....5:07 p. m.  
Sun rises tomorrow.....7:14 a. m.

TIDE TABLE.  
High tide today.....10:40 a. m.  
High tide tomorrow.....11:05 a. m., 11:18 p. m.  
Low tide tomorrow.....5:18 a. m., 5:33 p. m.

CONRAD H. SYME.



Associate Counsel for A. W. Machen.

## May Require License of Apartment Owners

Darneille Originates Bill, Approved by District Commissioners, Placing "Flats" on Same Taxable Basis With Hotels.

Every apartment house or "flat" in the District of Columbia will hereafter be subject to an annual license, such as is now required of hotels, provided a bill drafted today by the Commissioners meets approval in Congress.

Assessor Darneille, with whom the bill originated, says he believes the idea good, in view of the fact that apartment houses should be subject to the same supervision with regard to insuring the safety of the public in case of fire, as are hotels.

### \$5 Per "Flat."

The bill provides that: "The proprietors of apartment houses or flats, by whatsoever name called, whenever said apartment houses or flats contain more than five sets of flats or suites of rooms, shall pay to the Collector of Taxes of the District of Columbia, annually, beginning with November 1, in each year, a license tax of \$5 per flat or suite of rooms."

Provided, that no license shall be granted for apartment houses or flats until the Inspector of Buildings and the chief officer of the Fire Department of the District of Columbia have certified in writing to the Assessor that the applicant for license has complied with the laws enacted and the regulations made and promulgated for the protection of life and property.

### Penalty for Violation.

"That any person violating any of the provisions of this section shall on conviction thereof in the Police Court of the District of Columbia be punished by a fine of not more than \$500 for each offense, and in default of payment, by imprisonment not exceeding thirty days, in the discretion of the court."

## MAY RATIFY TREATY WITHOUT AMENDMENTS

Conference Held at the White House on Panama Matters, at Which the President Gives Views.

The closest attention of the Administration continues to be given to the Panama treaty. A conference was held this morning between the President and Senator Cullom, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. The treaty was considered.

No question exists longer that the President is opposed to the adoption of the amendments proposed to the treaty in committee. Senator Cullom does not regard them as essential, and it seems certain the wishes of the President will be acquiesced in and the treaty ratified in its original form.

On the part of the President and the Administration element in the Senate there is the greatest anxiety to get the question settled.

## BRITISH FORCE DEFEATS NATIVES IN SOMALILAND

LONDON, Jan. 21.—Reuters' News Agency today has a dispatch from Somaliland, reporting a successful British engagement with a force of Karis of Aushari on January 17.

Major Kenna, in command of the British force, surprised the rebels, killed fifty spearmen, and captured 3,000 camels and several thousand sheep.

## BARON GEVERS GUEST OF NETHERLANDS CLUB

Baron Gevers, minister from the Netherlands, was the guest of honor at a banquet given in New York last night by the Netherlands Club.

A handsome silver vase was given Baron Gevers by the members of the club. On Saturday Baron Gevers will sail from New York for Europe, to assume his new duties as minister of the Netherlands in Rome.

Don't carry a cough around with you. Piso's Cure has made cough unnecessary.—Adv.

## SENATOR HANNA SUFFERING FROM ATTACK OF GRIP

Thought to Be Relapse  
From His Illness in  
New York.

## PHYSICIANS CALLED IN

Result of Exposure From Attending Inauguration of Governor Herrick.

Senator Hanna has been confined to his room since yesterday afternoon. He is suffering from the grip.

His present illness is a continuation of the attack he sustained in New York. The Senator went to Ohio contrary to the advice of his physicians, and later attended Governor Herrick's inauguration.

Mr. Hanna returned to Washington last Saturday. He seemed to be in good health until yesterday afternoon. Physicians were summoned when he complained, and they ordered him to bed.

He will be confined to his room for several days at least, although members of the family say his illness is not serious.

## INSOMNIA DRIVES QUAY TO SEEK REST IN FLORIDA

Senator Quay left here this morning at 11 o'clock for his Florida home at St. Lucie. His absence will be of indefinite duration. The Senator is still suffering from insomnia, and hopes that a life in the open air may help him.

## COLLIER NERO REPAIRED AND READY FOR SERVICE

The collier Nero, which was damaged at Panama by colliding with the Concord, has been repaired by the mechanics from the New York. Admiral Glass advised the Navy Department this morning that the Nero is now in excellent condition.

## Morgan Asks Senate to Annex the Isthmus

Would Cut Gordian Knot by Adopting the  
New Republic—Present Situation "Repugnant" and "Abortive."

The new resolution introduced in the Senate yesterday by Mr. Morgan of Alabama, for the annexation of Panama and the payment of indemnities, was laid before the Senate today, immediately upon the conclusion of morning business, at 12:15 o'clock.

Mr. Morgan took the floor in support of his resolution. As in the case of his former utterances on the Panama matter, Mr. Morgan had at hand a voluminous written speech, which he read to his colleagues, with occasional impromptu comment or explanation. He based his remarks on the mandatory nature of the Spooner amendment and the absolute legal requirement, as he contended, that the President should treat with Nicaragua and Costa Rica in a most friendly way to obtain canal rights there.

### Spoke to the Point.

Mr. Morgan's remarks were characteristically direct. He referred to the case as "a repugnant situation," "a diplomatic abortion," and similar phrases. He then took up in detail the action of the Panama Canal Company representatives and made many allusions, by no means of a complimentary sort, to Minister Bunau-Villier. He also referred to offenses, of a penitentiary degree of seriousness, which had been condoned, he said, by the French government in connection with the Panama venture.

District bills were introduced in the

## LONDON STORIES ABOUT CONSULS ARE DISCREDITED

State Department Doubts  
That Russia Would Take  
Such Action.

## ASSURANCES OF CASSINI

Manchurian Viceroy Either  
Spoke Without Advisement  
or Report Is a Canard.

State Department officials discredit the stories circulated from London in which Count Alexieff, the Russian viceroy in Manchuria, is credited with having authorized his representative, M. Plancon, to say Russia will not admit foreign consuls to Mukden and Antung, and does not propose to take any action which will weaken Russia's hold upon Manchuria.

It is believed by State Department officials that M. Plancon has been credited with making statements which he probably did not make, as the position he has taken cannot be reconciled with the assurances Russia has given through Count Cassini and other ambassadors that Russia will respect the treaty rights in Manchuria of all powers but Japan.

## RUSSIA'S LAST REPLY ON THE WAY TO TOKYO

LONDON, Jan. 21.—The Paris correspondent of the Central News wires that semi-official advice received from St. Petersburg state that the Russian reply to the latest Japanese note will reach Tokyo today.

## "ASIA FOR ASIATICS," A STRONG SENTIMENT

VLADIVOSTOK, Jan. 21.—It is learned that the movement which might be termed "Asia for the Asiatics" is making remarkable progress. The movement is being headed by the Kato Okuma and other clubs, which have been opened in Japan, Korea, and China.

## SENATE TODAY BY MR. GALLINGER AND REFERRED TO THE DISTRICT COMMITTEE, AS FOLLOWS:

Authorizing the Commissioners of the District of Columbia to establish building lines.  
Regulating the sale of poisons in the District, introduced by request.

The first-named bill consists of fifteen sections, the last of which is to repeal the bill approved January 12, 1899, for the same general purposes. Another bill on the same subject, house bill 3511, is also before the District Committee.

The bill on the sale of poisons is the same as introduced in the House in the extraordinary session by Mr. Robinson of Indiana.

### For a Military Camp.

Mr. Penrose introduced bills to provide for the selection of sites and the erection of public buildings at Gettysburg and York, Pa., and to authorize and establish a permanent military camp in the Conewago Valley, Pa. This is the locality where annual encampments have been held for a number of years by the Pennsylvania National Guard, at which times United States troops have encamped with the State Guard. For several years the Mount Gettys range there has been used by the regular artillery for summer practice. The Fourth Field Battery, stationed at Fort Myer, made a six weeks' stay there last summer for this purpose.

## "SUNSET LIMITED" HELD UP BY ROBBERS

Stop Train, Detach Express Car, and Blow Open Safe in Lonely Cut on Southern Pacific.

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 21.—The Sunset Limited on the Southern Pacific Railway was held up last night by a gang of masked robbers between Paso Robles and San Ardo.

The train was stopped by the usual red light methods. The express and mail cars were detached and run ahead to a secluded spot, where the safe was removed from the car and blown open. It is not known how much plunder was secured by the robbers who escaped on horses tethered in a grove near by. The passengers were not molested.

## BOARD AND COMMITTEE DISCUSS PERSONAL TAX AND ALLEY SANITATION

Advocate Appraisers to Condemn Unhealthy Tenements, Award Damages, and Destroy Them—Amendments to Assessment Regulations.

The District Commissioners were before the House District Committee this morning for nearly two hours discussing the various bills which are before the committee affecting local affairs.

Commissioners Macfarland, West, and Biddle were present, and the members manifested much interest in what they had to say respecting the legislative needs of the District.

The Commissioners took up the subjects coming under their respective divisions of the District government. Mr. Macfarland devoted his attention largely to the series of bills intended to improve sanitary and health conditions, while Mr. West discussed the snow and ice bill, and then went into a lengthy consideration of the amendments to the personal tax law.

Mr. Macfarland said as a part of the scheme of general legislation to improve conditions, the Commissioners desired the passage of the bill to create a board to condemn insanitary buildings. The bill to abate nuisances has already passed the House. The bill to condemn insanitary buildings, he said, was the next step which should be taken. He said the measure was intended to reach the alleys and slums, and allow the authorities to remove unhealthy dwellings in these sections. Legislation of this character, he said, had been the result of study for years on the experience of other municipalities.

### Owners Are Protected.

The measure had been drafted by the Corporation Counsel, who believed that the interests of property owners had been fully protected. The Health and other departments had given suggestions.

Mr. Campbell, a member of the committee, wanted to know what the loss would be to owners of the property it was proposed to condemn. Mr. Macfarland said there would be no real loss, as the bill provides for an award of damages and gave them protection by a report to the courts. Mr. Macfarland said there was opposition to the bill only from mercenary persons who are benefited by the maintenance of the alley shacks which pay an income of 15 to 30 per cent, whereas sanitary buildings might not yield a net income of more than 5 per cent.

### Tenement House Law.

The next bill discussed was the tenement house law, which Mr. Macfarland said had been framed upon the experience of other cities. Mr. West took up the bill to appropriate \$5,000 to clean the snow and ice from the streets. He said the Commissioners had been handicapped in cleaning snow and ice from the streets by the decision of the Comptroller of the Treasury, who had ruled that money appropriated for specific purposes could not be used for general purposes. The bill appropriates \$5,000 for the removal of snow and ice, and authorizes the Commissioners to cause the streets and sidewalks to be cleaned and the cost assessed against property holders. Mr. West said that now, when warrants are served against property owners who fail to clean their walks, they simply go to the station, deposit \$1, and the snow and ice remains until it thaws off. He favored the bill, which will save, in addition to costs.

### Personal Tax Statute.

Mr. West then took up the bill to amend the personal tax law, which he said was an omnibus measure to correct the imperfect provisions of the present law. The first amendment desired, he said, was one to enable the Department of Personal Tax Review to have four months more time in which to collect personal tax, and to facilitate the operation of the law. There are, he said, from 17,000 to 18,000 personal tax returns made by August 12 under the law; a large number of people do not make any returns at all, and it is necessary to go out and find them. The penalty is attached for failure to make returns, but the penalty for non-payment, he said, does not accrue until the following May. The amendment, he said, would practically do away with payment of personal tax in November, but that there was little demand for payment or desire to pay in November.

The next section, he said, proposed to exempt private art galleries which are open two hours a day for two days a week. He thought that galleries which were thrown open to the public should not be taxed.

Mr. West cited the instance of Mr. Wagonman in Georgetown, assessed at a valuation of \$75,000. The owner protested against the imposition of the tax because he had opened the gallery at certain seasons of the year for charity, charging an admission fee of 50 cents. To avoid the tax he said the owner had donated the entire collection to the Catholic University.

### Interest and Penalties.

Another section of the measure referred to by Mr. West was the one which enables the Commissioners to remit interest and penalties in certain cases, and cited a number of instances where equity demanded a remission of penalty and interest. He also advocated a reduction in the tax on savings banks from 6 to 4 per cent on their gross earnings, less amount paid as interest to depositors. Chairman Babcock asked the Commissioner if he thought it was equitable to tax public service corporations 4 per cent and savings banks 6. Mr. West said he did not think it was; that the savings banks in Washington

paid in certain instances what amounts to a double tax. He also advocated a reduction in the tax on building and loan associations from 4 per cent to 15 per cent of their gross earnings. Mr. West said the building associations had done a great deal of good in Washington.

In the course of the hearing Mr. Babcock telephoned to one of the savings banks in regard to Mr. West's statement in regard to their double tax, and learned that it is their practice to deduct now the amount which they pay to depositors as interest when paying the personal tax.

### Cut Out "Heirlooms."

Mr. West asked that the word "heirlooms" be stricken out of the provision making exemption from the operations of the personal tax law. He said there had arisen so much question as to what were and what were not "heirlooms" that the Commissioners had decided it would be best to exclude them from exemption.

He wanted an amendment also to tax bowling alleys \$10 an alley, saying they had always paid the tax and it had been omitted by mistake. The proprietors not knowing that the tax had been omitted, came up and paid the amount, which they asked to have returned when they ascertained that there was no provision in the law assessing them.

The last matter referred to by Mr. West under the bill was in regard to granting the Collector of Taxes the right to sell property seized for non-payment of personal taxes at public auction whenever, in his discretion, he may wish to do so. The present law requires that it shall be sold at his office.

"When we are obliged to seize a tug boat," said Mr. West, "we can't very well sell it at the Collector's office." Mr. West said about \$1,500,000 had been raised under the personal tax law, and by increasing the license tax during the past year about \$1,000,000 more.

## ISHAM RANDOLPH TO BE ON CANAL COMMISSION

It is considered settled that President Roosevelt will select as one of the members of the Isthmian Canal Commission Isham Randolph, chief engineer of the Chicago drainage board.

Mr. Randolph called on the President today with Senator Hopkins, of Illinois. E. B. Baker, of the drainage board, was one of the party.

## BILL TO REGULATE CARS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE

Representative Allen of Maine today introduced a bill to require street railway companies in the District of Columbia to operate at certain seasons of the year closed and heated cars. The bill permits the use of open trailers when attached to a closed car.

## BURSTING OF FLY-WHEEL KILLS EDWARD GOLOSKI

JOHNSTOWN, Pa., Jan. 21.—With a roar and a crash that was heard nearly all over Johnstown, this morning at 1:20 o'clock, the forty-ton fly wheel on the engine in rail mill No. 2, of the Cambria Steel Works, broke in pieces and tore away the sides and roof of the building. The engine governor broke, and the speed of the wheel increased until it parted.

## FORMER MUSIC HALL THE PREY OF FLAMES

NEW YORK, Jan. 21.—Two alarms have been sent in for a fire in the building formerly occupied by Koster & Bial as a music hall, in Twenty-third Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues. After Koster & Bial moved to their present quarters in West Thirty-fourth Street, the building was known as the Bon Ton Music Hall. Recently it was fitted up as a bowling alley and gymnasium; the building extends from Twenty-third to Twenty-fourth Street, and it is thought that it will be entirely destroyed.

## CHARLES COGHLAN'S BODY FOUND NEAR GALVESTON

GALVESTON, Tex., Jan. 21.—A metallic casket has been found on the mainland, about eighteen miles from this city, believed to be the box containing the body of Charles Coghlan, the actor, who died suddenly in Galveston in November, 1899.

The Coghlan casket was washed out of a vault in the cemetery here by the terrible storm of September 8, 1899, and has been missing ever since. It was the intention to ship the body to New York. J. C. Nixon, a hunter, found the casket in an unfrequented spot which he was beating up for game.

Best Boards, \$1.50 Per 100 Feet.  
Frank Libbey & Co., 8th & N. Y. Ave.—Adv.